(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

Village Resource Centres

tl958. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been formulated to set up Village Resource Centres (VRC) in the villages of each block of the country with the help of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO);

(b) if so, by when this plan would be implemented; and

(c) the details of the areas about which information would be provided by the Village Resource Centres at the block level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Village Resource Centres are being set up in association with the partner agencies (such as NGOs, Trusts, Government agencies) in selected large villages of the Country depending on the developmental needs. So far 276 VRCs have been set up by ISRO in 14 States.

(c) Village Resource Centres provide space based information and services in the areas of education, awareness creation, healthcare, vocational training and skill development, agriculture, land and water resources management, livestock management, fisheries, weather and other Information and Communication Technology (1CT) enabled services.

Projects under MPLADS

1959. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing projects under MPLAD schemes all over the country;

(b) how many of them relate to 'Tsunami' reconstruction works;

(c) whether it is a fact that many important projects cannot be taken up on account of restriction in the guidelines; and

(d) whether the guidelines are relaxable according to suitability of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Based on the Monthly Progress Reports received from District Authorities till 20.8.2007, the number of ongoing works under MPLAD Scheme is 100961.

(b) There are 74 ongoing works relating to 'Tsunami' reconstruction works.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.